

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 00135 142308Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03
LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15
STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01
/100 W

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R 142229Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2128

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

US DEL MTN GENEVA 954

AMCONSUL QUEBEC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, FR, CA

SUBJ: CANADIAN VISIT OF FRENCH MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE

REF: PARIS 00639; QUEBEC 0015

1. SUMMARY. FRENCH MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE ANDRE ROSSI VISITED OTTAWA JANUARY 10 AND 11, FOLLOWED BY 48-HOUR VISIT TO QUEBEC. PURPOSE OF VISIT TO OTTAWA WAS TO PARTICIPATE IN SECOND MINISTERIAL MEETING OF FRANCE-CANADA ECONOMIC COMMISSION. ROSSI TOLD PRESS FRANCE WANTED TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH CANADA AND DID NOT PLAN TO TREAT QUEBEC AS SOVEREIGN STATE, BUT QUEBEC INDUSTRY MINISTER TOLD ROSSI THAT GREATER ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH FRANCE WILL ENCOURAGE QUEBEC'S BREAK FROM THE "POLITICAL TRUSTEESHIP" OF CONFEDERATION. IN MEETING IN OTTAWA, ROSSI CRITICIZED US AND JAPANESE MTN NEGOTIATING POSTURE. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 OTTAWA 00135 142308Z

2. IN VISIT TO OTTAWA WITH FEDERAL OFFICIALS AND CANADIAN BUSINESSMEN ON JANUARY 10 AND 11, FRENCH MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE ANDRE ROSSI, ACCOMPANIED BY TEN SENIOR FRENCH TRADE OFFICIALS, WAS CAREFUL TO STATE PUBLICLY THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD NO INTENTION OF INTERFERING IN CANADA'S

DOMESTIC AFFAIRS. IN CANADA AT INVITATION OF CANADIAN GOVERNMENT TO ATTEND SECOND MINISTERIAL MEETING OF FRANCE-CANADA ECONOMIC COMMISSION, ROSSI SAID HE HAD COME TO DISCUSS ECONOMIC NOT POLITICAL ISSUES. IN JOINT MEETING WITH INDUSTRY, TRADE AND COMMERCE (ITC) MINISTER JEAN CHRETIEN, HE LAMENTED FACT FRENCH DIRECT INVESTMENT IN CANADA DECLINED IN 1976 AND THAT FRANCE AND CANADA RECEIVE ONLY ABOUT ONE PERCENT EACH OTHERS EXPORTS. BOTH MINISTERS EXPRESSED HOPE TO INCREASE FIGURE TO TWO PERCENT, AND CHRETIEN ALSO INDICATED HOPE MIX OF CANADA'S EXPORTS WOULD IMPROVE--CURRENTLY 75 PERCENT CANADA'S EXPORTS TO FRANCE ARE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND CANADA'S GOAL IS TO INCREASE PROPORTION OF MANUFACTURED GOODS.

3. EMBOFF INFORMED BY ITC OFFICIALS THAT AS SOON AS OPENING FORMALITIES OF JOINT ECONOMIC MEETING WERE CONCLUDED, ROSSI STRONGLY REITERATED FRANCE'S CRITICISM OF USG POSITION IN MTN (REF PARIS TEL), AND TO A LESSER EXTENT THAT OF JAPAN. ROSSI HANDED OUT COPIES OF HIS SPEECH, "NEGOTIATIONS COMMERCIALES MULTILATERALES" GIVEN BEFORE FRENCH CONSEIL ECONOMIQUE ET SOCIALE IN PARIS ON NOVEMBER 23, 1976 WHICH CRITICIZES US POSITION AND SAID THAT POSITION OF HIS GOVERNMENT REMAINED AS STATED IN SPEECH. (ASSUME DEPARTMENT, PARIS AND GENEVA HAVE COPIES OF SPEECH.) NO MENTION WAS MADE PUBLICLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 OTTAWA 00135 142308Z

OF ROSSI'S COMMENTS ON MTN OR US POSITION THEREON.

4. ITC MINISTER CHRETIEN ISSUED BLAND STATEMENT FOLLOWING MEETING OF ECONOMIC MISSION. COPY, ALONG WITH PRESS COVERAGE OF VISIT, BEING POUCHED EMBASSY PARIS AND DEPARTMENT (EUR/CAN AND EUR/WE). COPIES OF ROSSI'S NOVEMBER 23, 1976 SPEECH WILL BE POUCHED AT REQUEST OF ADDRESSEES. ENDERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 14-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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